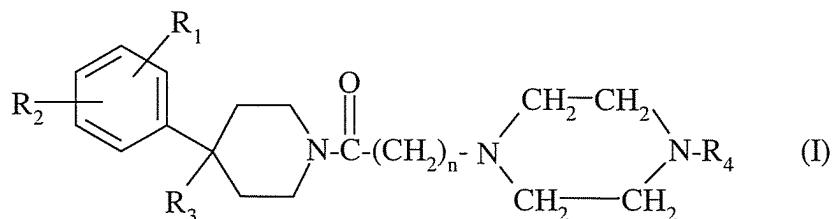


**Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

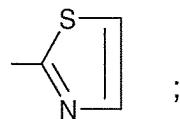
The claims set forth below with amendments as indicated will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A compound of formula (I):



in which:

- n is 1 or 2;
- R<sub>1</sub> represents a halogen atom; a trifluoromethyl radical; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy; or a trifluoromethoxy radical;
- R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;
- R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; a group -OR<sub>5</sub>; a group -CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>5</sub>; a group -NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>; a group -NR<sub>8</sub>COR<sub>9</sub>; a group -NR<sub>8</sub>CONR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>; a group -CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub>; a group -CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>8</sub>CONR<sub>14</sub>R<sub>15</sub>; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl; or a group -CONR<sub>16</sub>R<sub>17</sub>;
- or else R<sub>3</sub> constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;
- R<sub>4</sub> represents the aromatic group 1,3-thiazol-2-yl of formula:



- R<sub>5</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylcarbonyl;
- R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

- $R_8$  represents a hydrogen atom or a  $(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl;
- $R_9$  represents a  $(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl or a group  $-(CH_2)_m-NR_6R_7$ ;
- $m$  is 1, 2 or 3;
- $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a  $(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl;
- $R_{12}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a  $(C_1-C_5)$ alkyl;
- $R_{13}$  represents a hydrogen atom, a  $(C_1-C_5)$ alkyl, a group  $-(CH_2)_q-OH$  or a group  $-(CH_2)_q-S-CH_3$ ;
- or else  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, constitute a heterocycle selected from aziridine, azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine and morpholine;
- $q$  is 2 or 3;
- $R_{14}$  and  $R_{15}$  represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a  $(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl;
- $R_{16}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a  $(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl;
- $R_{17}$  represents a hydrogen atom, a  $(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl or a group  $-(CH_2)_q-NR_6R_7$ ;
- or else  $R_{16}$  and  $R_{17}$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, constitute a heterocycle selected from azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, morpholine and piperazine which is unsubstituted or substituted in position 4 by a  $(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl;

or an acid addition salt **hydrate or solvate** thereof.

Claim 2. (Previously presented): A compound according to Claim 1 wherein:

- $n$  is 1;
- $R_1$  is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical, a methyl, a methoxy or a trifluoromethoxy radical and  $R_2$  represents a hydrogen atom; or else  $R_1$  is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical and  $R_2$  is in position 4 of the phenyl and represents a chlorine atom; and
- $R_3$  represents a hydroxyl, a methoxy, an aminomethyl, a (methylamino)methyl, or a (dimethylamino)methyl; or else  $R_3$  constitutes a double bond between

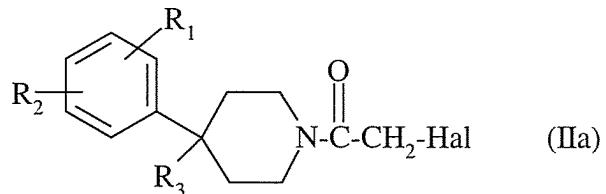
the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;

- R<sub>4</sub> represents a 1,3-thiazol-2-yl.

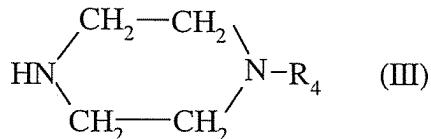
Claim 3. (Currently amended): A process for preparing a compound according to

Claim 1

wherein a compound of formula (IIa)



in which R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are as defined in Claim 1 and Hal represents a halogen atom, ~~with the proviso that when R<sub>3</sub> contains a hydroxyl or amine function these functions may be protected,~~ is reacted with a compound of formula (III)



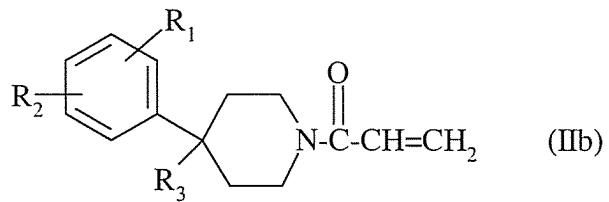
in which R<sub>4</sub> is as defined in Claim 1;

~~and deprotection of the hydroxyl or amine functions present in R<sub>3</sub> where appropriate.~~

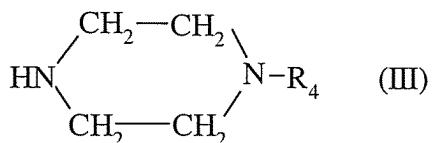
Claim 4. (Currently amended): A process for preparing a compound according to

Claim 1 in which n = 2

wherein a compound of formula (IIb)

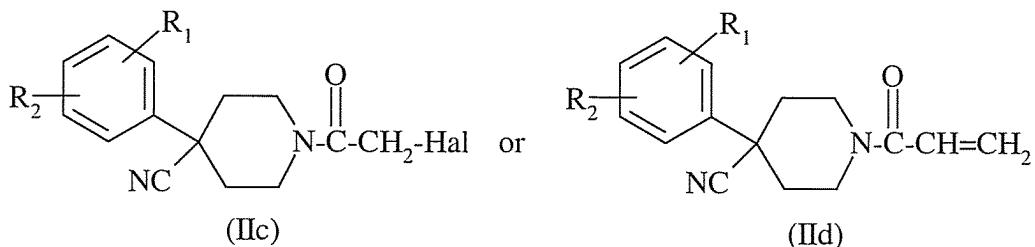


in which  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are as defined in Claim 1, with the proviso that when  $R_3$  contains a hydroxyl or amine function these functions may be protected, is reacted with a compound of formula (III)

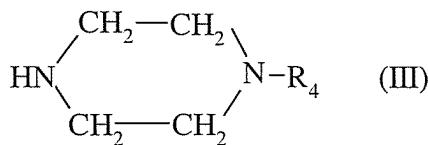


in which  $R_4$  is as defined in Claim 1;  
and deprotection of the hydroxyl or amine functions present in  $R_3$  where appropriate.

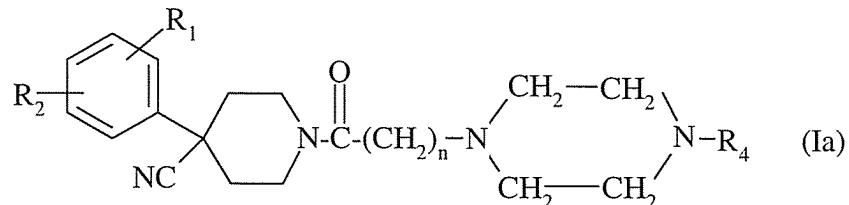
Claim 5. (Previously presented): A process for preparing a compound according to  
Claim 1 in which  $R_3$  represents a group  $-\text{CH}_2\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$  in which  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  each  
represent hydrogen  
wherein a compound of formula (IIc) or (IId)



in which  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are as defined in Claim 1 and Hal represents a halogen atom, is reacted with a compound of formula (III)

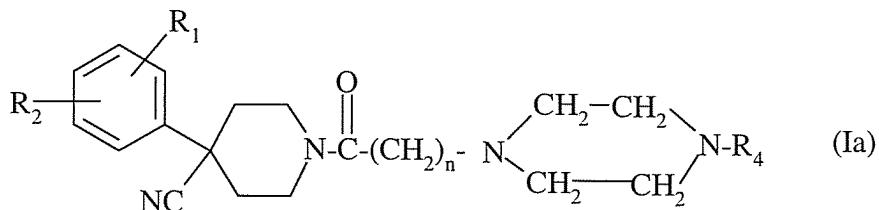


in which R<sub>4</sub> is as defined in Claim 1 to give a compound of formula (Ia)



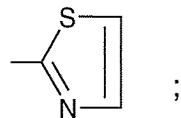
and the cyano group of the compound of formula (Ia) is reduced.

Claim 6. (Currently amended): A compound of formula



in which:

- n is 1 or 2;
- R<sub>1</sub> represents a halogen atom; a trifluoromethyl radical; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy; or a trifluoromethoxy radical;
- R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; and
- R<sub>4</sub> represents the aromatic group 1,3-thiazol-2-yl of formula:



or an acid addition salt **hydrate or solvate** thereof.

Claims 7 - 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

1-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-[4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1-(2*H*)-pyridinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-(aminomethyl)-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[4-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-hydroxy-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-hydroxy-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-hydroxy-4-(3-methylphenyl)-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-methoxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[(methylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
or an acid addition salt, ~~hydrate or solvate~~ thereof.

Claim 11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

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Examiner: Leeser, Erich A.

Claim 12. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to

Claim 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 13. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according

to Claim 10 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 14. - 16 (Canceled)